

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5747

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LORENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: TSHOMBE'S SON ASKS FOR US SUPPORT TO USE EX-
KATANGA GENDARMES AGAINST MPLA

1. SUMMARY. EXILED SON OF EX-KATANGA PRESIDENT MOSHE TSHOMBE CLAIMS TO HAVE RE-ASSERTED HIS AUTHORITY OVER EX-KANTANGA GENDARMES CURRENTLY FIGHTING ALONGSIDE MPLA IN ANGOLA. HE ASKS FOR USG FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO USE GENDARMES AGAINST MPLA AND THEIR SOVIET AND CUBAN ALLIES. END SUMMARY.

2. JEAN DITEND TSHOMBE, SON OF EX-PRESIDENT OF KATANGA MOSHE TSHOMBE, WALKED UNINVITED INTO EMBASSY JAN 5. HE TOLD US HE RETURNED DEC 21 FROM TWO-WEEK TRIP TO ANGOLA, WHERE HE MET WITH MPLA LEADER AGUSTINHO NETO AND VISITED EX-KANTANGA GENDARMES. HE SAID 4018 EX-KANTANGA GENDARMES IN ANGOLA ARE CURRENTLY FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF MPLA (7000 INCLUDING DEPENDENTS). HE DESCRIBED THEM AS WELL-ARMED, ORIGINALLY BY THE PORTUGUESE
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COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AND, SINCE LAST SUMMER, BY THE MPLA

WITH MODERN SOVIET WEAPONS. TSHOMBE SAID THEY ARE RANGED ALONG A TRIANGULAR SECTOR OF THE BATTLEFRONT NORTH-EAST AND SOUTH-EAST FROM ENRIQUE DE CARVALHO TO THE ZAIRE (KATANGA) FRONTIER.

3. TSHOMBE TOLD US HE WAS "ABLE TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL AUTHORITY" OVER EX-KATANGA GENDARMES DURING TRIP AND THAT ON BASIS OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO THEM, THE GENDARMES (EXCEPT FOR THOSE FEW OPERATING IN LUANDA SECTOR) WERE NO LONGER FIGHTING NOR WERE THEY BEING ATTACKED BY FNLA OR UNITA UNITS. HE ADMITTED THAT THIS "CEASE FIRE" COULD BE ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO THE CURRENT LULL IN THE FIGHTING THROUGHOUT ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT PORTUGUESE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION ARMED AND USED THE GENDARMES AGAINST ALL THE LIBERATION

MOVEMENTS - THE FNLA, UNITA AND MPLA - BUT LAST SUMMER GENDARMES WENT OVER TO MPLA AND PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN DRIVING FNLA AND UNITA OUT OF LUANDA. TSHOMBE ASCRIBED GENDARMES ADHESION TO MPLA AS RESULT OF A CLAUSE IN THE APRIL, 1975 COMMITMENT BY PORTUGAL TO GRANT ANGOLA INDEPENDENCE ON NOV 11. THAT CLAUSE STIPULATED THAT ALL EX-KATANGA GENDARMES WERE TO BE DISARMED AND SENT BACK TO ZAIRE. HE RECALLED THAT EX-KATANGA GENDARMES WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD RETURNED TO ZAIRE UNDER VARIOUS AMNESTIES GIVEN BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD BEEN "MASSACRED." FNLA AND UNITA AGREED TO THAT CLAUSE, BUT MPLA'S ANGUSTINHO NETO DID NOT AND ENTERED INTO AGREEMENT WITH GENDARMES THAT GAVE THEM ARMS, MONEY AND ALLOWED THEM TO STAY IN ANGOLA UNTIL THEY COULD RETURN TO KATANGA ON BETTER TERMS.

4. TSHOMBE SAID HE REPRESENTS KANTAGESE IN EXILE WHO SUPPORTED HIS FATHER, MANY OF WHOM NOW RESIDE IN BRUSSELS. HE SAID HIS GROUP RECENTLY BECAME ALARMED AT INCREASING "COMMUNIST" ORIENTATION OF MPLA AND STEPPED-UP ACTIVITIES OF CUBA AND SOVIETS IN ANGOLA. THEREFORE, GROUP SENT TSHOMBE ON MISSION TO ANGOLA TO REASSERT CONTROL OVER GENDARMES AND THEN TO APPROACH USG FOR SUPPORT. TSHOMBE SAID HIS GROUP SEEKS FUNDS TO PAY GENDARMES AND WAR MATERIAL TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE FNLA AND UNITA AGAINST MPLA. WITH THIS SWITCH IN GENDARME ALLIGIANCE TSHOMBE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT MPLA COULD BE OVERTHROWN OR AT LEAST BE FORCED TO ACCEPT MINORITY POSITION IN A COALITION GOVERNMENT. AT SUCH TIME, THE EX-KATANGA GENDARMES WOULD BE IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH AND ABLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH MOBUTU THEIR RETURN TO

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KATANGA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WISHED TO RETURN AND LIVE IN PEACE, NOT TO OVERTHROW MOBUTU. HE ENVISIONED POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF US "GUARANTEE" AGAINST MASSACRES OR OTHER FORMS OF RETALIATION. QUESTION WHETHER GENDARMES WOULD RETURN TO KATANGA WITH OR WITHOUT ARMS COULD BE NEGOTIATED AT THE TIME. HE CONCEEDED THAT HE AND THOSE OF HIS GROUP WERE "POLITICIANS" AND UNLIKELY TO LONG REMAIN OUTSIDE THE POLITICAL LIFE OF ZAIRE.

4. COMMENT. WE TOLD TSHOMBE THAT HIS ACCOUNT OF TRIP TO ANGOLA
AND HIS VIEWS WOULD BE REPORTED BUT GAVE HIM NO REASON TO BELIEVE
USG AID WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ZAIRE DESK
OFFICER (JAENEN) TELLS US THAT TSHOMBE REPRESENTS A "KATANGA
CLIQUE" WHICH HAD BEEN EXTRA-OFFICIALLY SEEKING "WITHOUT LUCK"
FUNDS FROM BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. FIRESTONE

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